

Claims

1. A pinching detection apparatus comprising:
a pressure sensor disposed along an outer edge of a trunk lid of a vehicle; and
5 determination means for detecting that an object is pinched between a body opening section of said vehicle and said trunk lid in accordance with a signal output from said pressure sensor.
2. The pinching detection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
10 pressure sensor has a flexible piezoelectric sensor.
3. The pinching detection apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said pressure sensor has a nonlinear flexible member whose displacement in response to load is nonlinear, and said piezoelectric sensor is disposed adjacent to said nonlinear flexible
15 member.
4. The pinching detection apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said determination means determines whether or not said object maintains contact with the object, on the basis of said signal output from said piezoelectric sensor.
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5. The pinching detection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said pressure sensor has a cushioning section which can be compressed by pressing action stemming from pinching of said pinched object.
- 25 6. An opening/closing apparatus comprising:
a pinching detection apparatus having a pressure sensor laid along an outer edge of a trunk lid of a vehicle, and determination means for detecting that an object is pinched between a body opening section of said vehicle and said trunk lid in accordance with a signal output from said pressure sensor;
30 drive means for driving said trunk lid; and
control means for controlling said drive means so as to release pinching when occurrence of pinching has been determined by said pinch determination means on the

basis of a signal output from said determination means.

7. The opening/closing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, when closing said trunk lid, said control means controls said drive means so as to close said trunk lid after said trunk lid has once been moved over a predetermined distance in an opening direction.